

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the final Office Action mailed on April 13, 2006. Claims 1, 3-12, and 14-23 were pending before the amendment, claims 9 and 22 have been cancelled, and claims 1, 8, 10, 11, 19, and 23 have been amended. Claims 46 and 47 are new claims. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 9, 10, 15, 19, 22, and 23 are allowable. In view of the foregoing amendments, as well as the following remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in complete condition for allowance and request reconsideration of the application in this regard.

Comments on the Response to Arguments

Applicants note that the Examiner's comment on page 3 of the Office Action to the effect that "the claim as presented is not patentable enforceable" should not be interpreted to negate, or in any way to effect, the enforceability of Applicants' claims.

Objection to the Specification

Applicants have amended the "Title of the Invention" as suggested in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the objection.

Objection to the Claims

Applicants have amended claim 10 to address the informality noted in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the objection.

Rejections of Claims

Claims 1, 3-6 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Hirata (U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0018138), hereinafter *Hirata*. Claims 7, 8, 11-13, 15, 16, and 18-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over *Hirata* in view of U.S. Pub. No.

2004/0169281 to Nguyen et al. (hereinafter *Nguyen*). Without conceding the impropriety of the rejection, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the subject matter of original dependent claim 9, which the Examiner indicated as allowable. Without conceding the impropriety of the rejection, Applicants have amended claim 11 to include the subject matter of original dependent claim 22, which the Examiner indicated as allowable. Consequently, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the claim rejections.

New Claims

Independent claims 46 and 47 are new claims. Independent claim 46 represents the subject matter of dependent claim 15, which is allowable, rewritten in independent form. Similarly, independent claim 47 represents the subject matter of dependent claim 19, which is allowable, rewritten in independent form.

Conclusion

Applicants have made a bona fide effort to respond to each and every requirement set forth in the Office Action. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is submitted to be in complete condition for allowance and, accordingly, a timely notice of allowance to this effect is earnestly solicited. In the event that any issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to expedite issuance of this application.

Applicants request that the Examiner consider and enter the Amendment. The claims, if amended as proposed, avoid the rejections set forth in the Office Action and, thus, the Amendment places the application in condition for allowance. The claims, if amended as proposed, do not raise any issues of new matter. The claims, as amended, do not present new issues requiring further consideration or search. The Amendment presents two additional claims and also cancels an equal number of finally rejected claims.

Applicants do not believe fees are dues in connection with filing this communication. If, however, any fees are necessary as a result of this communication, the Commissioner is hereby

authorized to charge any under-payment or fees associated with this communication or credit any over-payment to Deposit Account No. 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

/William R. Allen/

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